

From Your County Agent

Importance of Vegetable Gardens Is Stressed

By Bob Murdock

Vegetable gardens are needed this year as much or more as they ever have been. Money to buy the necessities of living is becoming harder and harder to find by most people, and a good garden can go a long way in making your money go further. Vegetable seed is plentiful now and of good quality. Any reputable seed dealer can supply growers with the seed needed and give you some very helpful information on planting. Before you buy your seed or plant your garden, sit down with a piece of paper and draw out the size needed. It will be a time saver when planting as well as a guide when buying. Buy the garden fertilizer now if you can find it, as there probably will be less later in the summer. I will briefly discuss some of the garden fertilizers and you can judge best which suits your needs.

Manure is the best general fertilizer and should be used whenever it can be obtained. Heavy annual applications maintain high fertility and also serve to loosen heavy soils. Spread 2 to 4 inches deep and work well into the top 6 inches of soil. Use poultry manure with caution as it will burn plants.

Sulfate of Ammonia contains lots of nitrogen and will give good

results on all vegetable crops, lawns, shrubs and trees. Buy a 100 pound sack, you can always find plenty of use for it. Use 1 lb. to 10 feet by 10 feet square of garden. Using an equal amount of superphosphate will increase the mineral content of the vegetables.

Complete Fertilizers are also good, but 3 to 4 times as much must be used. Apply to the soil and work lightly into the surface a few days before planting. A later application to the growing plants will hurry them along.

Booster Solution is prepared by dissolving 2 heaping tablespoons (1/2 ounce) of complete fertilizer in a gallon of water. Use a cupful to each transplant or to 6 inches of a row like radish.

Sawdust applied about 3 inches and worked into the top soil will do wonders to loosen heavy soils. It will also ruin your garden unless you use a lot of sulfate of ammonia. Apply 2 pounds to a 10 ft. X 10 ft. square before planting, and the sawdust will have no ill effect. A later application of 1/2 that amount of fertilizer is also desirable. If you find fresh sawdust is good and you need not worry about pitch or resin. Sawdust is also a good mulch for shrubs, strawberries and canberries. The sulfate of ammonia must be used for four years after application of sawdust.

You will find it best if you make a succession of planting for crops

such as peas, lettuce, carrots, beets, radishes, etc. Some other vegetables that can and possibly should be planted by now are spinach, onions, cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard and turnips. The later, warm season crops such as corn, beans, cucumbers, and melons should not be planted until the soil is warm and the danger of frost is over.

Type of 2-4-D Depends On Mix to Be Used

What kind of 2-4-D? Ester or amine? These are questions asked many times. Since the amine and ester forms of the weed-killing chemical are about equally effective, the kind you buy will depend upon what you want to mix it with and where you want to use it.

The ester will mix with oil. Amine won't. But for most farm spraying water is as good as oil.

You must be extra careful when using the ester form. Both it and the amine will drift, if there is a breeze when you apply them, and they can cause damage to nearby crops that are susceptible. However, the amine doesn't volatilize (go into gas form), like the ester.

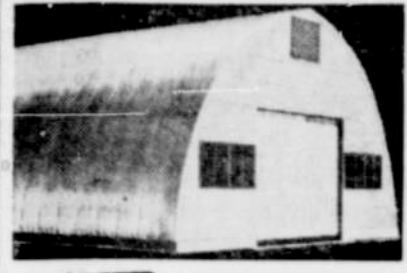
When spraying near susceptible crops—or around the farmstead, lawn or garden, use only amine. It's safer.

Spray on a calm day. Use water as a carrier. When buying 2-4-D weed killer, don't just ask for 2-4-D. Be specific and get the form you want. If the salesman doesn't know which form he is selling, he doesn't have any business selling 2-4-D; he's a dangerous 2-4-D salesman.

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The cost will be approximately the same as last year, \$15. This figure pays transportation from Medford to camp and return.

"We are well on our way to claiming several Eagle Scouts in the local Troop and certainly need the training given at the summer camp by experts to attain that goal," Mr. Morey said. "We have a great Scout Troop and through the parents help will be able to keep up the good work."

Anyone desiring further information is asked to get in touch with Ralph Huber or George Morey.

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Camping Season for Boy Scouts Nears

Parents of Boy Scouts are reminded by George Morey that the summer season of Scout Camp is almost here.

Mr. Morey, Illinois Valley Scoutmaster, urges parents to begin planning for their sons trip to Camp McLaughlin on the shore of Lake O' the Woods in the Rogue River National Forest. Beneath Mt. McLaughlin and at an elevation of 5,200 feet, the campsite consists of 60 acres of heavily wooded land, surrounded by miles of virgin forest.

"The days are perfect, the

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